



Greensboro Gleanings



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ...

October 2010

Dear Church Community

I want to bring to your attention a proposal under discussion in our Board of Deacons: namely, we have begun considering the possibility of entering into a ministry partnership [this could also be called a mission partnership] with another church, or church related organization, in another part of the world. We believe that creating an ongoing connection of this kind would have several positive aspects to it.

First and foremost, from my point of view, it would give us an opportunity to enter into a new form of ministry and mission that would involve actual relationships, and direct interactions with specific people. We already do good things by giving money to worthy organizations; by providing markets for developing world crafts people as we do through the Greater Gift/SERRV sales, etc.

Establishing this kind of specific partnership, however, would add a new dimension. It would 'put a face' on our work in two ways. It would enable us to see and respond to the real faces of real people in another part of the world and another part of the church. And it would also allow others to see and respond to our faces; to see us as real people; people who also have real struggles and needs, and who also need help to grow and succeed in ways in which we ourselves may be struggling. One thing the North American church of today is growing in, is its increasing realization that mission partnerships are relationships among equals; relationship in which each party has major gifts to offer, and each party has important things to learn. If we choose to enter into some kind of ministry partnership with a church elsewhere in the world, we would need, in my view, to enter it as much as people who know their need to ask for help, as much as we are people who know our need to offer it.

This concept of establishing a ministry and mission partnership could have a range of benefits for us. It could serve to help build enthusiasm and ownership among our own people for the work we do in the world. It could have a significant educational function for our people to both learn more about what is happening in other places in the world; learn more about what our own denomination is doing; and become more knowledgeable about what the larger church is doing or could be doing, or could be doing better, in different parts of the world. A partnership such as this could strengthen our own commitment to taking a more expanded role in making Christ's love and wisdom more real in the world around us.

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Love

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:27-31
NRSV

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MILESTONES & MISCELLANY

Happy October Birthday to:

Charlie Emers, Jack Niemi, Bronwyn Masse, Bruce Richardson, Emery Brush, Nancy Hill, Edna Zucher, Francy Hays, Judy Dales, Shirley Strong, Candace Hall, Trish Alley, Rev. Suzanne Spencer, Keith Myers, Eliza Behrsing!

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed. You can call 802-533-2223 or email gucc@guccvt.org.



FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED ...

(Continued from Front Page) ... The Mission Board wants, first, to invite your thoughts about this concept. And then secondly, we want to invite you to share with us any specific thoughts about how to proceed. One thing, I think, needs to be said. If we move forward with this in some form, this needs to be a project and a commitment undertaken by the whole church, not by any single part of it. Put another way, if we go forward with this project it would be one in which the whole membership of the church would have an active part. And practically speaking, this would also mean that all of the committees in the church would have an equally active part in it; and that all of the committees in the church would willingly embrace taking a role in the project as part of their agendas. Yes, this would mean more work for committees. Yes, the committees are all busy already. Yes, the people of the church are all busy already. But the benefits could be great. The benefits could include us becoming a more alive, engaged church. That could, in turn, include more reason for others to be attracted to what we are doing, and to want to join our church.

On behalf of the Mission Board, I am writing to ask what you think? I invite you to be in touch with either me, or Nancy Hill, the Chair of our Board of Missions.' We would like to specifically request a written response that we can post on the church's website. And we would invite you also to carefully read the responses that do appear on the site. [We'll let you know what mechanism we set up for this.] This whole process can elicit an ongoing series of responses, dialogue and conversation. If you do write us a note and do not want it posted on the site [or prefer that it be posted without your name attached] let us know and we will, of course, honor those requests. Or, if you want to just talk with Nancy Hill or me in person, that is welcome also.

This project has the potential to become a significant step forward for our church. The Mission Board and I invite your personal and active participation in the days ahead.

Tony Acheson

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH PLANNING ON OCT 17



The date for this year's annual Women's Christmas Luncheon has been set for Saturday, December 4, at noon. Can you help us prepare and organize this event? We will be having a brief meeting after church on Sunday, October 17 to get the main organizational tasks set up and delegate the major areas of responsibility. Judy Dales has again volunteered to oversee the process but, as the saying goes, many hands make light work, and in order for this event to again be the success it has been in the past, the work needs to be spread around fairly. Please do plan to join the planning on Oct. 10. [And if you could let Judy know in advance that you can make it on that day, that would be a plus too.] We all look forward to seeing you then!



CAPS FOR GOOD



This winter, why not create caps for newborns? Save the Children and the Warm Up America! Foundation have teamed up for a Caps for Good campaign which provides handcrafted caps for newborns in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Even if you don't knit or crochet, your donations help crafters buy materials or can help the campaign itself. A \$10 donation helps a healthcare worker train a mother in "kangaroo mother care" (skin-to-skin contact) which reduces infant mortality rates by nearly 50 percent!

The Caps for Good campaign will run from November 2010 through February 2011. We will gather once a month during the campaign to share camaraderie while we work on caps. For more information, including patterns, visit the Save the Children website (www.savethechildren.org/publications/good-goes/caps_for_good_kit.pdf), check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or contact Sonia (katewench@earthlink.net). Stay tuned to the newsletter and Tony's e-mails for the date of our first gathering.

October 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Thanks to Oct Coffee Hosts!		Oct 3–Jan Travers			1	2
Oct 10–Cilla Bonney-Smith		Oct 17–Susan & Mike Coffey				
Oct 24–Penny Bretschneider		Oct 31–Patti Foster				
3	4 4 p.m.–Living Strong, FH	5 4:30 Christian Ed, Church Library	6 10 a.m.–Living Strong, FH	7	8	9
10 11:15–Christmas Lunch Planning	11 4 p.m.–Living Strong, FH 4:30 p.m.–Pleasants Fund,	12 NE Association Fall Meeting, time, place TBA	13 10 a.m.–Living Strong, FH 	14 4 p.m.–Deacons Special Meeting, Church Library	15	16
17 	18 4 p.m.–Living Strong, FH	19 7 p.m.–Church Council, Library	20 10 a.m.–Living Strong, FH	21	22 	23
24	25 4 p.m.–Living Strong, FH	26	27 10 a.m.–Living Strong, FH 4:30–Mission Board, Library	28	29	30
31 Sonia Dunbar Preaching 						

NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings:

- Oct 3** ~Lamentations 1:1-6 ~Lamentations 3:19-26 or
Psalm 137 ~Psalm 37:1-9 ~2 Timothy 1:1-14
~Luke 17:5-10
- Oct 10** ~Jeremiah 29:1-7~Psalm 66:1-12 or 2 Kings
5:1-15~Psalm 111~2 Timothy 2:8-15~Luke
17:11-19
- Oct 17** ~Jeremiah 31:27-34~Psalm 119:97-104 or
Genesis 32:22-31~Psalm 121~2 Timothy
3:14-4:5~Luke 18:1-8
- Oct 24**~Joel 2:23-32~Psalm 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or
Jeremiah 14:7-22~Psalm 84:1-7~2 Timothy
4:6-18~Luke 18:9-14
- Oct. 31**~Psalm 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18~Psalm
32:1-7~2 Thessalonians 1:1-12~Luke 19:1-10



CHURCH SCHOOL AND OFFICE NEWS

Our Christian Education year got off to a strong start in September. First, our Youth Group kicked off with a bang on Sunday, the 12th, with a terrific volleyball game in Craftsbury among the Greensboro, Hardwick and Craftsbury participants in the Group. Later we enjoyed making our own sandwiches and sitting around a fire. We have an active and committed planning group for our Youth program which currently consists of myself, Cara Hill, and Pastor Tony; as well as Revs. Judy Waible and Alan Parker, plus Barb Strong, a lay person from the Craftsbury Church. The planning group has set our next Youth gathering for Saturday October 16. We'll meet at 9 AM at our church, and will bring the kids to a three-mile Walk for the Homeless in St. J. This will raise funds for a homeless shelter which specifically houses youth in the St. J area. This is an important cause to support and we hope you will open both your hearts and wallets as different ones of the kids ask your support for their participation in the walk. [Our planning group has also set dates for events on Nov 14 and Dec 12. More information will come in future newsletters.]

Turning to our Church School, we gathered for the first session of the year on September 19. We read passages from the Bible which relate to peace, sang a song about peace and began creating Our Peace Wall - a collage in honor of the United Nations International Day of Peace (September 21). In coming weeks, we'll focus on the ideal of Christian "Hospitality". Activities will include developing skits and creative story-telling to fill in the missing moments of Biblical passages relating to welcome and tolerance. To the children and youth, welcome all! To the parents and guardians, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas for activities. Most of all, keep coming to church and keep bringing the kids. See you Sunday.

Sonia Dunbar, Church School and Youth Coordinator

HOURS FOR THE OFFICE Please be advised that regular hours for our Office Manager are Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 AM to 4:00 PM. Pastor Tony most regularly takes his day off on Mondays. Please also be reminded that some of your questions about our schedule of events and times already reserved for use of our space in the building can be found on our website at www.guccvt.org. Thanks.

The Office Staff